

SPANISH PHRASES FOR COSTA RICA CHEAT SHEET

Basic Spanish Words / Phrases

Here are some of the words and phrases you are most likely to use in Spanish.

Yes - Si

No - No

Maybe - Tal vez

Of course - Claro

Fine - Bien

I need... - Necesito...

Please - Por favor

Thank you - Gracias

Thank you very much - Muchas gracias

You're welcome - De nada / Mucho gusto

Excuse me - Con permiso (*used if you need to get by somebody*)

Excuse me - Disculpe (*when you need to get somebody's attention*)

Pardon me - You can say "disculpe" or "perdón!" (*use if you bang into somebody*)

I'm sorry - Lo siento

Language Phrases

Do you speak English? - Habla inglés?

I don't speak Spanish - No hablo español

I speak a little Spanish - Yo hablo un poco de español

How do you say ... in Spanish? - (Como se dice ... en español?)

What does ... mean in English? - Que significa ... en ingles

Do you understand? - ¿Entiende?

I don't understand - No entiendo

Speak slower please - Por favor, habla más despacio

Can you repeat please - Podrías repetir por favor

Greetings and Goodbyes in Spanish

Hello - Hola

Hi - Buenas (The direct translation is "good" but in Costa Rica "buenas" is a more relaxed way of saying hello. It is normal to say "Buenas" to people working at a shop, restaurant etc.)

Good morning - Buenos días

Good afternoon - Buenas tardes

Good evening/ night - Buenas noches

How are you? - Cómo estás?

What is your name? - Cómo se llama?

My name is... - Mi nombre es...

Nice to meet you - Mucho gusto

Where are you from? - De dónde eres?

I am from ... - Yo soy de ...

See you later - Hasta luego

Bye - Adiós

Bye - ¡Pura Vida!

Bye - Ciao

Question Phrases

Can I...? - ¿Puedo...?

Can you...? - ¿Puede...?

Do you have...? - ¿Tiene...?

What? - ¿Que?

What time is it? - Qué hora es?

When? - ¿Cuándo?

How? - ¿Cómo?

Why? - ¿Por qué?

Where? - ¿Dónde?

Where is...? - ¿Dónde está...?

Emergency Phrases

In case of an emergency, the number for the police is 9-1-1.

Help! - Auxilio!

I need help - Necesito ayuda

I had an accident - Tuve un accidente

Send the police, please- Envíe a la policía, por favor.

I've been robbed - Me han robado (a)

My passport was stolen - Me robaron el pasaporte

I lost my passport - Perdí mi pasaporte

I am sick - Estoy enfermo (a)

I don't feel well - No me siento bien

I need a doctor - Necesito un médico

heatstroke - insolación

heart attack - ataque al corazón

Restaurant Phrases for Costa Rica

In most restaurants, you will be able to get an English menu.

When you finish your meal you will need to ask for the bill.

On your bill, you'll see sales and service tax. Service tax is usually 10%. It is always nice to give a bit of a tip on top of this.

I have a reservation - Tengo una reservación

A table - Una mesa

A table for two, three, four - Una mesa para dos, tres, cuatro

The menu please? - ¿El menú, por favor?

Do you have an English menu? - ¿Tiene un menu en ingles?

I would like.... - Para mi (menu item name), por favor. Or you can say.... Yo quisiera (menu item name)

I am allergic to ... - Soy alérgico a ...

An appetizer - Una entrada

What would you like to drink? - ¿Para tomar?

A drink - Una bebida

Cheers! - ¡Salud! -

Dessert - Un postre

I am vegetarian - Soy vegetariano/a

Very tasty - Que rico!

To go - Para llevar

The bill, please - La cuenta, por favor.

Service - Servicio (This is the 10% added to the bill for tip)

Sales tax (13%) - Impuestos ventas

Transportation Phrases for Costa Rica

There are some phrases that will be very helpful while getting around the country with ease.

Gas Station Spanish

All gas stations in Costa Rica are full service. That means you just stay in your car while a gas station attendant takes care of everything for you. If you need your windshield washed or tire pressure checked they can do that as well. However, it is always nice to give them a small tip (we usually give about 300 colones) if they provide these extra services for us.

Fill it with regular (gas) please - Lleno con regular, por favor

Could you please check the air pressure? - ¿Podría por favor verificar la presión de aire en las llantas??

Could you clean the windshield? - ¿Podría limpiar el parabrisas?

May I have the bathroom key? - Me podría dar las llaves del baño, por favor?

Taking the Bus

Often you will buy bus tickets ahead of time at a bus station ticketing office. However, if you are boarding a bus at a bus stop you will need to purchase your ticket on board. Most bus drivers do not speak English so it is good to know a few basic phrases for your bus ride.

Bus station - Estación de buses

Bus stop - Parada de bus

Where are you going? - ¿A dónde va?

Do I need a ticket? - ¿Necesito un tiquete?

One ticket to.... - Un tiquete a

Stop here - Pare aquí

Direction Phrases

Because people from Costa Rica are generally nice people-pleasers it can be difficult to get directions from them. It is not unusual for Ticos to try and give you directions even if they have no idea where you need to go.

So, the moral of the story is that you will need to assess the situation and decide if you really trust somebody's directions.

If you would like some tips on driving directions we have a complete [guide to getting directions in Costa Rica](#).

Can you help me? - ¿Puede ayudarme?

How do I get to ...? - ¿Como llego a...?

Where is the nearest gas station? - ¿Dónde está la gasolinera más cercana

I am lost - Estoy perdido

I am going to... - Voy a...

Is this the road to...? - ¿Esta es la calle a...?

To the right - A la derecha

To the left - A la izquierda

Straight ahead - Derecho

At the corner - En la esquina

In one block - A una cuadra

Shopping Phrases for Costa Rica

At outdoor art stands it is OK to haggle a bit for the price. However, keep in mind that Costa Ricans do not like confrontation. Don't make them feel uncomfortable by trying to get a much lower price.

Open - Abierto (*as in relation to store hours*)

Closed - Cerrada (*as in relation to store hours*)

I'm just looking - Solo estoy mirando

I'm looking for ... - Estoy buscando ...

What sizes do you have? - ¿Que tallas tienes?

Small - Pequeño (a)

Medium - mediano (a)

Large - Grande

Can I try it on? – ¿Me lo puedo probar?

Do you have other colors? – ¿Tienes otros colores?

Do you sell Kolbi cards? - ¿Vendes tarjetas Kölbi prepago?

I would like a card for (amount) - Me vendes una tarjeta por (amount) colones

(Note: Kolbi is one of the prepaid phone companies here. You can pick up a SIM card in the airport after exiting Customs. Check out our [guide to using your cell phone in Costa Rica](#) for more info on how that works)

Phrases for Paying

I would like to buy this – Lo voy a comprar

How much does it cost? - ¿Cuánto cuesta?

Do you accept dollars? - ¿Aceptan dólares?

Do you accept credit cards? - ¿Acepta tarjetas de crédito?

Hotel Phrases for Costa Rica

In most hotels, the front desk person will speak some English. If you run into a situation in which there is not an English speaking employee these are the phrases you need to know.

I have a reservation - Tengo una reservación

What is the nightly rate? - ¿Cuánto es la tarifa por noche?

Do you have any rooms available? - ¿Tiene habitaciones disponibles?

I'd like a double room - Quisiera una habitación doble

I'd like to stay for ... nights - Me gustaría quedarme por ... noches

Is breakfast included? - ¿El desayuno está incluido?

What time is check out? - ¿A qué hora es la salida?

What is the WIFI password? - ¿Cuál es la clave para el WIFI?